



CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 29 2011

Scripture Story: Genesis 6; 7; 7:20–9:17.

Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 7, 8, and 9.

Noah way!



Photo by Jennifer and Company

flashlight

"But Noah stood like a rock amid the tempest. Surrounded by popular contempt and ridicule, he distinguished himself by his holy integrity and unwavering faithfulness. A power attended his words, for it was the voice of God to man through His servant. Connection with God made him strong in the strength of infinite power, while for one hundred and twenty years his solemn voice fell upon the ears of that generation in regard to events, which, so far as human wisdom could judge, were impossible" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 96).

keytext

"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. . . . But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."

(Genesis 6:5, 8, NIV)

what do you think?

Either/Or. Choose one of the two statements given and explain your response.

I believe Jesus will come in my lifetime. OR I don't think Jesus will come in my lifetime.

Why did you answer the way you did? What are some common explanations you have heard from people who hold either of these opinions?

did you know?

Have you ever heard the rumor that the Flood and Noah's ark is a fanciful fairy tale that made its way into the Holy Scriptures? Whoever started that rumor has some explaining to do. The existence of a catastrophic flood is not solely a Christian story but a narrative that is embedded in many ancient cultures. The Babylonians, the Mayans, the Egyptians, and even some cultures of Asia report stories from their history that bear a close resemblance to the Flood story of the Bible. Even the Australian Aborigines tell a story of a great flood, a family, and a boat as part of their cultural tradition.

INTO THE STORY

"This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, 'I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.'"

"And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and

of all creatures that move along the ground, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark."

"By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, 'Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it.'"

(Genesis 6:9-14; 7:5-13; 8:13-17, NIV)



OUT OF THE STORY

As you read through the story, *underline* key facts that you see are important.

Circle the main characters included in the story.

Highlight the text that reveals information about the setting and the attitudes of people in this story.

What is significant about the specific days of the month mentioned in this story?

What do you see as the major themes that grow out of this story?

As you read this passage, is there:

- A promise to claim?

- A lesson to learn?

- An example to follow?

- A warning to heed?

- A thanksgiving to express?

- A prayer to offer?

- An action to take?

If there is one message in this story that relates to your life today, what is it?

How can the message of this story change the way you live this week for God?

punch lines

“By the word of God . . . the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” **(2 Peter 3:5-7, KJV).**

“As I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee” **(Isaiah 54:9, 10, KJV).**

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” **(Hebrews 11:7, KJV).**

“As in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” **(Matthew 24:38, 39, KJV).**

other eyes

“Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light.”—V. Raymond Edman, 20th-century U.S. Christian writer.

“Faith is more than thinking something is true. Faith is thinking something is true to the extent that we act on it.”

—W. T. Purkiser, 20th-century U.S. scholar, writer, preacher.

Sabbath

Look at the *What Do You Think?* exercise at the beginning of this lesson and reflect on the similarities between the days of Noah and today. Read Matthew 24:38, 39 and make a list of three to five similarities between the time of the end and the time of Noah and the Flood.

“As in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:38, 39, KJV).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Sunday

Read the story portion of Noah and the Flood found in Genesis 6 through 9:17 and respond to the study questions given in your lesson. Scripture says that Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord (Gen. 6:8), and that he was righteous and blameless. What made him righteous and blameless? (see Gen. 15:6). How can we find favor in the sight of God?

Monday

The *Key Text* for this week portrays aspects of God’s character that are both troubling and heartwarming. Read Genesis 6:5-8. It is sad that humanity became so disconnected from God that He would be “grieved” that He had made them. It’s hard to imagine God being so sorry for the mess of sin that He chose to start all over again. But what is so beautiful is that God cared so much for the human race that He did start over instead of giving up on

humanity altogether. That “Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord” is a rainbow of hope that God will start over rather than giving up on us.

Have you considered thanking God for not giving up on you? Write a prayer of thanks to God for sticking with you.

Tuesday

Read the *Flashlight* section. What are some events or experiences that seem unimaginable to you today? Consider how the faith Noah demonstrated in his day is still needed in your world. Do you know anyone of whom this quote reminds you? How do you see a little of Noah in them? What challenge might God be calling you to that seems impossible?

Wednesday

Perhaps there are moments in your week when an opportunity to share God’s Word with a friend or a stranger will arise. Read the *Punch Lines* and identify one verse that you think might be especially relevant to people in your sphere of influence. Explain why you would choose the particular verse you did and who you would share it with if the opportunity presented itself. Pray for God to give you a chance this week to convey a word of hope from this week’s study to someone else.

Thursday

It may be that one of the reasons the antediluvians (people before the Flood) did not respond to the promptings of Noah’s preaching

was that they thought they had time. Do you have a tendency to postpone aspects of your relationship with God because you don’t feel a sense of urgency? How does the story of Noah awaken any sense of urgency in you?

Friday

The Bible says, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1, NIV). Reflect on the story of Noah and the faith in what he could not see that he had to exercise. What other characters in Scripture had to exhibit similar “blind faith”? Make a list of your top 10 heroes of faith in the Bible and decide why their story is important to you. Also, think of the challenges you face and how the example of these characters might encourage you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

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this week’s reading*

Patriarchs and Prophets, chapters 7, 8, and 9.

*A special adaptation of *Patriarchs and Prophets* has been created just for you by the White Estate and the Pacific Press Publishing Association. Get more info about it at: www.cornerstoneconnections.net. By following this plan you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.